



Security Council

Distr.: General

27 October 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 22 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the second meeting, held at Kinshasa, of the Preparatory Committee for the Great Lakes Conference, issued on 19 October 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dirk Jan van den Berg
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the second meeting, held at Kinshasa, of the Preparatory Committee for the Great Lakes Conference, issued on 19 October 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

1. The European Union wishes to congratulate you on the results of the first preparatory meeting for the Conference and the thematic meetings. These meetings have reaffirmed that we are in a process that can be instrumental to achieving peace, stability, security and development in the Great Lakes region.
2. This second meeting of the Preparatory Committee is considered a memorable event, not only because the concept of the Conference was based on an analysis of the regional dimension of recent conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but also because this meeting is the first with representation of the new core members.
3. The European Union looks forward to the active participation in the Conference of the new core members Angola, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo and the Sudan.
4. The European Union would like to express its appreciation to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for hosting the meeting. The active participation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Conference is a sign of commitment to peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo itself and in the region as a whole.
5. The European Union looks forward to fruitful discussions during the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee, this week in Kinshasa. The European Union is present here to once again demonstrate its partnership during the preparations for the Conference.
6. The European Union repeats its view that the Conference comes at a crucial junction in the history of the region, by providing a platform to discuss options and to agree on actions paving the way towards a peaceful and prosperous future for the region.
7. The starting point in this effort is genuine dialogue and agreement on concrete confidence-building measures which can be supported and enhanced by local and international partners such as the European Union. Confidence-building is a process that starts with people. Agents for change can play a major role in such efforts, as has been demonstrated by Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan winner of the 2004 Nobel Prize for peace.
8. The Conference is instrumental in the long-term process towards peace and reconciliation and should not replace or delay the national transitions. Some may be sceptical about the possible outcome, but there is no alternative forum where all regional stakeholders join hands, listen to each other and work towards a settlement

that will respect the other's position. The political significance of this forum in this war-torn region cannot be underestimated.

9. The Conference therefore deserves the full and unequivocal commitment of its participants and of the Governments and peoples they represent. The Group of Friends, of which the European Union is a member, and the international community at large will provide financial, technical and diplomatic support to help make this Conference a success.

10. In view of the rapidly approaching summit of the Heads of State on 19 and 20 November at Dar es Salaam, the European Union would like to emphasize that the outcome of the second preparatory meeting is of the utmost importance. The European Union looks forward to the discussion of a "zero draft" of the declaration of principles, policies, orientations and directives at the summit of Heads of State at Dar es Salaam.

11. The European Union urges all participants to engage in constructive and open-minded dialogue. The European Union reiterates its view that the Conference should focus as much as possible on the key area of concern: peace and security. In this framework, the European Union would definitely welcome a central role for the African Union. Without peace and security, efforts in other areas, such as economic development and regional integration, will be in vain. Participants should build upon existing agreements, arrangements and organizations, such as COMESA, SADC, EAC and CEPGL. In the field of security, the Joint Verification Mechanism as well as the tripartite agreement between Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be used as building blocks for the final security arrangements to be agreed on by the Conference.

12. This is truly a historical episode in the region of the Great Lakes. It provides all of you with a unique opportunity to chart the course towards peace, security and development for millions of people who have known little besides oppression, violence and poverty. The European Union stands by you. Let's take that chance.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.



Security Council

Distr.: General
27 October 2004

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Letter dated 18 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the outcome of the Somali presidential elections, issued on 14 October 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dirk Jan van den Berg
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the outcome of the Somali presidential elections issued on 14 October 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is pleased that the election of the President of the Federation of Somalia has come to a successful conclusion on 10 October 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. The election confirms the Somali commitment to overcome the political vacuum that lasted for more than a decade and to bring the Somali National Reconciliation Conference to a successful conclusion. The election of the President is a milestone in the peace and reconciliation process, paving the way for the establishment of a Transitional Federal Government.

The European Union congratulates the new Somali President, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, on his election. Furthermore, the European Union recognizes the important role played by Somali leaders in the Transitional Federal Assembly in safeguarding the democratic principles of the election process.

The European Union will continue to support the peace and reconciliation process and the transition to a federal State in Somalia. Furthermore, the European Union stands ready to assist a Transitional Federal Government in accordance with the arrangements to be agreed between such a government and the international community.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
27 October 2004

Original: English

**General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East**

**Security Council
Fifty-ninth year****Letter dated 26 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative
of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon during the period from 25 September to 18 October 2004 (see annex).

These grave violations are part of a series of persistent and provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese territory, including air, sea and land, and contravene the principles of international law, the resolutions of international legitimacy and your repeated calls for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats against Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the United Nations to deter and prevent Israel from such dangerous acts, which constitute a threat to international security and peace. Lebanon holds Israel fully responsible for any consequences to which those acts may lead.

In drawing your attention to the grave consequences of such acts, I request that the present letter of complaint and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sami Kronfol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 26 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

25 September 2004

At 0545 hours, an Israeli gunboat in the Lebanese territorial water facing Ras-Naqoura fired a flare shell, and at 1859 hours, fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire on the open sea.

26 September 2004

At 0454 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired a flare shell, and at 2239 hours and 2249 hours, fired two flare shells on the open sea.

26 September 2004

Between 1140 and 1230 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned inside Chebaa farms fired 155mm artillery rounds, which impacted upon the surroundings of Birket Elnaqar, inside the farms.

26 September 2004

At 1525 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned inside Chebaa farms fired two 155mm artillery rounds, which impacted inside the farms.

28 September 2004

Between 1120 and 1220 hours and at 1959 hours, an Israeli gunboat in the Lebanese territorial water facing Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun on the open sea.

29 September 2004

At 0949 hours and at 1310 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun on the open sea.

30 September 2004

At 2205 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired a flare shell on the open sea.

1 October 2004

At 1115 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire, and between 1600 and 2110 hours, fired a flare shell and several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire on the open sea.

1 October 2004

At 1400 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned in Rweiset Alalam inside the farms fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire at the surroundings.

2 October 2004

At 0540 hours and at 1009 hours, between 1340 and 1350 hours and at 1755 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire on the open sea.

3 October 2004

At 1400 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned in Rweiset Alalam inside the farms fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire at the surroundings.

4 October 2004

At 0005 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire on the open sea.

4 October 2004

At 1250 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned in Tallet Alradar inside the farms fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire at the surroundings.

5 October 2004

At 1540 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned in Tallet Alradar inside the farms fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire at the surroundings.

6 October 2004

At 0450 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired two flare shells on the open sea.

6 October 2004

At 1400 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned in Rweiset Alalam inside the farms fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire at the surroundings.

7 October 2004

Between 0310 and 0625 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired two flare shells and several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire on the open sea.

8 October 2004

At 0745 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire on the open sea.

8 October 2004

At 1504 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned in Rweiset-Alalam inside the farms fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire at the surroundings.

9 October 2004

At 1554 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters facing Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium-calibre machine gun fire on the open sea.

13 October 2004

Between 1725 and 1800 hours, two Israeli helicopters violated Lebanese airspace at medium altitude over Chebaa farms.

Between 2115 and 2135 hours, two Israeli helicopters violated Lebanese airspace at medium altitude over Chebaa farms.

17 October 2004

Between 1440 and 1740 hours, an Israeli drone plane violated Lebanese airspace at medium altitude, entering from above Tyre, and flew in a circular motion above Tyre, Nabatieh and Saida.

18 October 2004

Between 1100 and 1155 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace at different altitudes, entering from above the sea facing Tyre, headed east and north towards Beirut, flew in a circular motion above Beirut, then headed north towards Chekaa and flew in a circular motion over Chekaa.

Between 1145 and 1215 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace at high altitude, entering from above the sea facing Saida, headed towards Beirut, and flew in a circular motion over Beirut and Saida.



Security Council

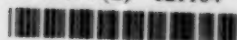
Distr.: General
2 November 2004
English
Original: French

Letter dated 29 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement of the Government of Burundi on the joint report of the United Nations on the Gatumba massacre (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marc Nteturuye
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Response of the Government of the Republic of Burundi to the joint report of the United Nations Operation in Burundi, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Gatumba massacre

29 October 2004

I. Factual background

1. On the night of 13 August 2004, a transit centre for Congolese refugees at Gatumba, Mutimbuzi Commune, Bujumbura Mairie, was brutally attacked by a large group of armed individuals. A total of 152 Congolese Banyamulenge refugees were killed, 106 were wounded and 8 are still missing. These refugees were targeted because of their ethnicity.
2. On 15 August 2004, the United Nations Security Council called on the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to conduct an immediate joint investigation of the massacre.
3. In the wake of this tragedy, the Government of Burundi immediately started investigations, the findings of which are due to be published shortly. In the interim, the joint ONUB-MONUC investigation mission has just made public its report, which was transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the President of the Security Council in a letter dated 15 October 2004.
4. At this stage, the Government of the Republic of Burundi, which intends to produce its own investigation report on this tragedy in the very near future, would like to make the following initial observations and comments concerning document S/2004/821 dated 18 October 2004.

II. The massacre and its perpetrators

5. The Government of Burundi wishes to express its gratitude to the Security Council and the investigation team for the interest shown in unveiling the truth about the tragedy at Gatumba. It notes, however, that there are several omissions in the report on the subject, as well as confused interpretations of facts which are nonetheless clear and assertions which are contrary to the stated facts, as we shall illustrate below.
6. The Government of Burundi will be pursuing its thorough judicial investigation at the national and subregional levels with the full cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, where necessary, in order to identify the culprits and bring them to justice. The matter will be immediately referred to the International Criminal Court.
7. In the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitted to the President of the Security Council on 15 October 2004, it is clearly specified that the

Secretary for Foreign Relations of the Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu — Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL) of Agathon Rwasa stated in a press communiqué dated 15 August 2004 that FNL had attacked the "military camp" at Gatumba, alleging that the refugee camp was the base of the "Banyamulenge military command".

8. An FNL member named Jean Minani, who took part in the attack, provided the ONUB team investigating the massacre with a clear indication of the route taken from the Congolese border to the point where the elements divided into two groups, one of which headed for the Congolese Banyamulenge refugee site and the other for the military camp at Gatumba. This division took place at highway 2 at Gatumba.

9. The day after the attack, the area was visited by members of ONUB, including Major Biogho, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including Ms. Solange, who saw the FNL firing positions around the Gatumba military camp and removed cartridge cases from the site.

10. It is also essential to take into account the testimony of those living in the vicinity of Gatumba on highway 2 and south of the Gatumba camp. The testimony agrees on the fact that the attackers spoke Kirundi, Lingala, Kinyarwanda, Gifurero and Kiswahili. The attackers moved away in small groups towards Kiliba and Rusizi.

11. According to statements made by the Mayi-Mayi brigadier general named Jean Jacques Bulimengu, the attack on the Banyamulenge refugee site at Gatumba was planned by the command of the tenth military region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

III. The view of the Government and the Army

12. On 12 June 2004 the Burundian Minister of the Interior had convened a meeting with the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, the United Nations and ONUB in order to discuss measures to be taken in the light of the influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the end of the meeting the Government of Burundi agreed on the need to transfer refugee populations further from the border in accordance with international principles and committed itself to providing the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the names of the designated locations for the organization of the new camps. It was also agreed that the Government of Burundi would reinforce civilian and Gendarmerie personnel to assist in the management and protection of the sites.

13. In accordance with that agreement, the Government of Burundi, within the limit of its capacities, did what needed to be done.

14. Concerning the attack, it should be noted that it lasted 45 minutes. Some of the attackers began by securing the camp while others brutally massacred the Congolese Banyamulenge refugees. The attackers formed a coalition comprising members of FNL, FDLR and the Mayi-Mayi. They withdrew in small groups in the direction of Kiliba and the Rusizi plain across the marshlands.

15. At the present stage of the national investigations it appears that they numbered 750 of whom 300 were FNL, 250 Mayi-Mayi and 200 FDLR. The witnesses Jean Minani and General Bulimwengu described the course of events including the planning, the objectives, the reasons, the operations and the

withdrawal. Furthermore, in a press communiqué of 15 August 2004, FNL stated that it had taken part in the operation on the grounds that it believed that the Gatumba camp was sheltering the Banyamulenge military command.

IV. The investigation team's view of the facts

16. Given the comprehensive and detailed admissions by FNL, it is difficult to understand why the report uses the conditional mood in detailing the actions of FNL. This attempt to minimize the responsibility of the attackers gives prominence, over the search for the truth, to considerations the purpose of which seems to us to be dubious and dangerous for the future. The same applies to the claim in the report that substantial material evidence was not provided concerning the attack on the military camp of Gatumba, even though the visit to the area by Major Biogho and Ms. Solange described above provided eyewitness evidence.

17. Moreover, the claim that no reinforcements were provided to assist the refugees is a misstatement of the problem since it is based on the tactics of the attackers. The camp was secured while the massacres took place. To speak of "alleged" attacks against the camp is a serious and unfounded accusation bordering on bad faith.

18. In short, the report is motivated far more by political considerations than by a quest for the truth. The perpetrators are known. To cast doubt on the letter of 14 August 2004 would be to indicate a preconceived opinion.

19. Furthermore, MONUC and ONUB have the advantage of being present on either side of the frontier between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They also have the means to establish the true facts and we have no doubt they are aware of them.

20. The gratuitous and erroneous statements against the Government and Army of Burundi which we totally reject cannot stand in view of the sequence of events, the examination of the facts and the truth of the testimony.

V. Conclusion

21. That being so, the Government of Burundi strongly appeals to the Security Council to take account of this response pending the appearance of the Government's own report. It urges the international community to give priority to the search for the truth and to justice for the victims.

22. For its part, following its investigations, the Government of Burundi will refer the matter to the International Criminal Court to have the culprits called to account for their actions.



**General Assembly
Security Council**

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27 October 2004
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Original: Russian

**General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 148
Measures to eliminate international
terrorism**

**Security Council
Fifty-ninth year**

**Letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

On behalf of the Russian Federation, as the State chairing the main bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I have the honour to transmit the text of the statement issued by the Heads of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (see annex).

I should be grateful if this statement could be distributed as a General Assembly document under agenda item 148 and as a Security Council document.

(Signed) A. Denisov



Annex

Statement by the Heads of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on combating international terrorism

The world community experienced great pain apprehending the tragic events in the Russian Federation in August and September 2004 that led to the loss of the lives of totally innocent people through the explosions on airliners and at a metro station in Moscow and the shooting of child hostages in North Ossetia.

The murderous practices of international terrorists who, select defenceless people for their victims and turn them into hostages of interests that are alien to them, are resolutely condemned by the peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), other States, the United Nations Security Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other international organizations.

The purpose of the cynical cruelty displayed by the terrorists' actions, which run counter to morality and humanity, is to intimidate peoples, paralyse their will, cause disunity and leave them spiritually defenceless in the face of the common danger threatening them. The terrorists who perpetrated the crimes against the Russian Federation constitute an extremely serious threat to every country in the world, without exception.

The Heads of the CIS member States express their full solidarity with the Russian Federation in its fight against terrorism and are convinced that only the concerted efforts of all civilized mankind in combating international terrorism will be able to prevent the spread of this evil, which has become a major threat to international security and stability in today's world.

Having encountered acts of international terrorism, the CIS member States confirm their steadfast determination to stand together in opposing all its manifestations and declare such acts to be purely criminal, having no justification, whatever the motive and regardless of where and by whom they are committed.

The Heads of the CIS member States support the call by the President of the United Nations Security Council in his statement of 1 September 2004 for all States to cooperate actively with the Russian authorities in their efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation and its citizens. They confirm their deep resolve uncompromisingly and tirelessly to combat this lethal threat, in accordance with the obligations of their States under the Charter of the United Nations.

Practical measures are being taken by the Commonwealth of Independent States to harmonize action in combating international terrorism and other contemporary challenges and threats. As the recent events have shown, however, these have proved inadequate. The priority is now the vital need to introduce without delay a comprehensive system of joint measures to combat terrorism and the criminal activities that accompany and nourish it.

To counter international terrorism effectively and protect the rights and freedoms of our peoples, we must be able to anticipate every manifestation of

terrorism and counteract it not only by unanimous condemnation on the part of all our countries but also by the eminent professionalism of our special services and the active implementation of all the international legal instruments established by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Heads of the CIS member States hereby instruct the relevant national structures to move forward as fast as possible on the preparation of a Concept of cooperation between the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in combating terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism that defines the CIS strategy and basic priorities in this field.

The Heads of the CIS member States will take all necessary action at the national level to enhance their contribution to the struggle waged by the international community against the threat of terrorism, with the central coordinating role of the United Nations. In that context, they put forward an initiative to hold the next special meeting of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations jointly with the CIS member States in the very near future.

Astana, 16 September 2004

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
28 October 2004

Original: English

France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Western Sahara, including resolution 1495 (2003) of 31 July 2003 and resolution 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004,

Reaffirming its commitment to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect,

Reiterating its call upon the parties and States of the region to continue to cooperate fully with the United Nations to end the current impasse and to achieve progress towards a political solution,

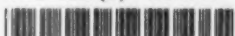
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 20 October (S/2004/827),

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2005;

2. *Requests* that the Secretary-General provide a report on the situation before the end of the mandate period and an interim report, within three months from adoption of the resolution, on the evolution of the situation and on the mission's size and concept of operation, with further detail on the options discussed in the Secretary-General's report of 20 October 2004 (S/2004/827) on the possible reduction of MINURSO staff, including civilian and administrative personnel;

3. *Calls* on Member States to consider voluntary contributions to fund Confidence Building Measures that allow for increased person-to-person contact, in particular the exchange of family visits;

4. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.





Security Council

Distr.: General
28 October 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 25 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 21 October 2004, the Darfur rebels attacked a convoy of 105 Nigerian pilgrims who were crossing the Sudan by road on their way to Mecca. In this regard, I have the honour to enclose herewith the communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih Erwa
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué on the attack by Darfur rebels on Nigerian pilgrims

On 21 October 2004, a convoy of 105 Nigerian pilgrims and 15 Sudanese citizens was attacked by rebel forces in Khor-Tawilah, North Darfur state, while transiting through the Sudan en route to the holy sites. In addition to seizing three cars, the rebel forces robbed the convoy members of their entire possessions and money. Having been stripped of all their belongings and subjected to intimidation and ill-treatment, the pilgrims were then bundled into a car heading in the direction of El Fasher.

The Government of the Sudan vigorously condemns this attack, which showed no regard for the sanctity of pilgrims bound for the Kaaba during the Holy Month, and wishes to state that the Sudan has, for centuries, been happy for thousands of pilgrims from West Africa to transit its territory each year on their journey of pilgrimage. Throughout that time, no pilgrims have ever come under any such attack; on the contrary, they have invariably received a hospitable welcome from their fellow Sudanese brothers. Over generations, the sacred journey of pilgrimage has come to embody one of the most distinguished ties of brotherhood and affection. Moreover, it has formed a bridge for the finest form of cultural and social communication among the peoples of West Africa and the Sudan.

This grave attack represents a serious and dangerous violation of the ceasefire agreement and furthermore indicates a lack of any sense of responsibility on the part of the rebels, who deliberately looted the possessions of those pilgrims, robbed them of their money and vehicles and exposed them to the greatest of dangers.

The Government of the Sudan clearly and unequivocally affirms that it holds the rebels fully responsible for this vile crime and demands that they should take immediate action to return, in full and as soon as possible, the looted money and possessions to their owners. The Government also demands that the rebels should make a clear and public apology to those pilgrims for the suffering which they inflicted on them, as well as to all pilgrims to the Kaaba and all Muslims whose feelings have been hurt by this evil attack on their fellow Nigerian pilgrims.

The Government further demands the immediate release of the 15 Sudanese citizens and holds the rebels fully responsible for such fate as may befall any one of them.

In view of the grave dangers represented by this attack on pilgrims crossing the Sudan, the Government of Sudan finds itself compelled to issue a firm and explicit warning to the rebels to desist fully from repeating such criminal and reprehensible acts.

For its part, the Government of the Sudan will take every measure to guarantee the safety of all its citizens and of foreigners in or transiting its territory.

It will also endeavour to make the requisite arrangements, in collaboration with the mission of the African Union (which was immediately notified of this violation), for monitoring such transgression and attacks, holding the rebels accountable therefor and taking such action as is necessary to prevent any recurrence.

In conclusion, the Government of the Sudan reiterates its sense of sorrow at the rebel involvement in this incident, concerning which it wishes to affirm to its fellow Nigerian and other pilgrims transiting the Sudan its deep regret. It also assures them that the Government and people of the Sudan are keen not only to ensure their safety and security, but also to welcome them as noble brothers in their blessed journey to the holy sites.



Security Council

Distr.: General
28 October 2004

Original: English

**Letter dated 25 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative
of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the Security Council**

I have the honour to enclose herewith a note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to African Union Ceasefire Commission in Darfur and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General regarding an ambush conducted by the rebels in Darfur targeting the Minister of State for Agriculture and the Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, in a seriously flagrant violation of the Ceasefire agreement (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih Erwa
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan presents its compliments to the African Union (AU) Ceasefire Commission and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Khartoum and has the honour to refer to the serious and highly regrettable incident which occurred in Kass, in the region of Tur, on 12 October 2004, when the delegation of the Minister of State for Agriculture and the Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs was ambushed by armed men during its journey from Nyala to Zalingei, as a result of which several of the guards escorting the delegation were injured.

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan is deeply concerned by the grave implications of this incident, which is such as to represent a serious violation of the ceasefire in force under the N'Djamena agreement.

The Government of the Sudan believes that this incident is directly targeted at humanitarian work, bearing in mind that any similar repetition could severely damage the efforts aimed at improving the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The Government of the Sudan believes that this incident affirms the intense and urgent need for pressure to be exerted on the rebel movements with a view to securing their firm and full commitment to compliance with the ceasefire agreement.

The Government of the Sudan sincerely hopes that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the AU Ceasefire Commission are able to monitor this and all similar incidents in the context of holding the perpetrators accountable and prevailing upon the rebel movements to fulfil their obligations and responsibilities in regard to compliance with the ceasefire agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan takes this opportunity to convey to the AU Ceasefire Commission and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.